

By the Queene.

A Proclamation for the execution of the lawes made agaynst vnlawfull Reteynors. &c.



TH E Queenes Maiestie vnderstandyng, aswell by her owne carefull obseruation of her policie, as by report of suche as haue thadministration of Justice in her Realme, howe vniuersally the vnlesfull reteynnyng of multitude of vnozdinary seruantes, by liueries, badges, and other signes and tokens, contrary to the good & ancient statutes and lawes of this Realme, doth manifestly withdraue from her Maiesties crowne, the due seruices of her officers, tenants, and subiectes, and doth also playnely hynder iustice, and disorder the good policie of the Realme, by mayntenance of vnlesfull suites and titles, and by stirryng vp, and nouryshyng of factions, ryotes, and vnlesfull assemblies, the mothers of rebellion, besydes suche other great inconueniences that already are scene, and moe lykely dayly to folowe, yf speedy remedy be not prouided for this purpose, is moued with a most earnest intention, to procure a speedy reformation thereof. And because her Maiesties intent is, rather to haue generally her lawes duely obserued, and the defaultes quietly reformed, then the great forfaitures to be leuied, which are due to her Maiestie, and myght greatly by iustice enriche her treasure, specially in the streyght execution of the sayde lawes, aswell by the persons that haue and do vnlesfully reteyne others, as also by them that are so vnlesfully reteyned against the lawes. Therefore her Maiestie of her speciall grace, doth by this her proclamation notifie to all persons, of what estate or degree so euer the same be, who shal after the xx. day of february next folowyng, vnlesfully reteyne, or be reteyned, in any seruice, by liuery, badges, or other token, contrary to the statutes and lawes of this Realme therfore prouided, the same shal not haue any manner of fauour or grace of her Maiestie, for any suche offence committed agaynst the sayde lawes, before nor after the same twentieth day. And contrarywise, who so euer shal vpon this admonition forbear to offende herein, from and after the sayde twentieth day of february next, shal not be in any wyse impeached at her Maiesties suite, nor shal forfeite any thyng to her Maiestie for the same: And so her Maiesties pleasure is, that all her Justices and officers, before whom any suite is, or shalbe commenced, for any offence committed, or to be comitted, before the said xx. of february, to haue regarde to this her Maiesties gracious dispensation. And for the better execution of the lawes and statutes remaynyng in force against any such vnlesfull reteynors, her Maiestie chargeth all manner her Justices and officers, to whom the execution of the same is prescribed, to cause inquisition, or examination, accordyng to the sayde lawes, to be made in all places of the Realme, immediately, or as soone as conveniently they may, after the sayde twentieth day of february: And that all Justices of Assise, and gaole deliueries, aswell in townes corporate, & franchises, as in any Counties, shal at their next sessions haue due regarde, by good examination and triall, that no person be impanelled in any Jury before them, that is vnlesfully reteyned, without due reformation and punyshyng of the same, for the better example thereof, in their open sessions. And further they shal cause a sufficient newe Jury to be charged apart at the same sessions, diligently for that only purpose, to enquire of the poyntes and articles of all the statutes beyng in force, and specially of the statute made the thirde peere of her Maiesties noble graundefather kyng Henry the seuenth, against vnlesfull reteynors, and geue also some order, that (as the trueth maye be therein vnderstande) some good euidence may be geuen to the sayde Jury in that behalfe: And that al other thynges, by the care of the sayde Justices, may be done, both at their next sessions, and at all other their sessions folowyng: Whereby the inconueniences aboue mentioned, may be the moze speedily reformed, and the lawes hereafter in this behalfe better kept. And to the intent her Maiestie may be the better satisfied in her earnest desire, to see the effect of her desire in this behalfe, her Maiestie wylleth, that her saide Justices of Assise, shal after their next sessions, at some convenient tyme, make reporte to her Maiestie, of their doynge, and of their opinions, for the better execution hereof, as cause shal require. And further, her Maiestie chargeth all manner of persons, that haue any seruantes vnlesfully reteyned, by liueries, badges, or

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by any other compact, who shall require to be discharged, for any offence punishable before the sayde .xx. day of february: that they shall before the sayde twentieth day, discharge their sayde seruantes so vnlesfully reteyned, of their seruices, in respect of the danger of the lawes: and therupon the sayde seruantes shall accept the sayde discharge, and shall ceasse to weare the badges, or other tokens wherby they were accustomed to be reteyned, vpon payne that yf the sayde seruantes shall continue to be reteyned vnlesfully in the sayde seruice, or in wearyng of the same badges or tokens, after the saide twentieth of february, they shall not be any wise forborne from punishment for their defaultes committed against the lawes before the said twentieth of february. And forasmuch as by the sayde statute made in the thirde yeere of her Maiesties noble graundefather kyng Henry the seventh, prouision is specially made vpon weyghty considerations, by great penalties of forsaitures agaynst sundry officers, as Stewardes, Auditors, Receauers, and Bayliffes, of the Queenes Maiesties Honours, Manours, and Landes, and agaynst Constables, or Keepers of her Maiesties Castels, Wardens, Bailiffs of games, Parkes, Recepers, of any other maner of her Maiesties forrestes, Chases, Parkes, or Warrennes, for being them selues vnlesfully reteyned, or for their vnlesfull reteynyng, or for sufferyng to be reteyned, any manner of person dwelling within their sayde offices or rules, without enfourmyng her Maiestie thereof within fourtie dayes, and also agaynst all her Maiesties farmours, or Tenantes of any of her landes, that are or shalbe vnlesfully reteyned by any others, vpon payne of forsaiture of their farmes: Her Maiestie hath thought good, specially and particularly, for better information, and to auoyde ignorance, to geue warnyng hereof to all persons hauyng any such offices, and to all other beyng her farmours or Tenantes, whom the sayde statute may touche, that they also do speedily resourme them selues in the offences therein particularly specified, before the saide twentieth of february, vpon payne that yf they shall not so do, her Maiestie assureth them, that she will not in any wise remit the sayde penalties and forsaitures, whiche by execution of the sayde statutes, and other her lawes, may duelye and fullye growe to her for the offences that are or shalbe committed before the sayde twentieth day of february, agaynst the sayde lawes and statutes.

Given at her hyghnesse pallace of westminster, the thirde day of January .1571. in the fourtenth yeere of her Maiesties raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Churchyarde, by Richarde Iugge and Iohn Camwood,
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Cum priuilegio Regie Maiestatis.

[Faint handwritten signature and star mark]